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Scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support

Note by the Secretary-General

The assessment by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) of inclusive, country-driven processes for scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/224. In that resolution, the Assembly requested UNAIDS and its co-sponsors to assist in facilitating such processes, with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it, including through increased resources, and working towards the elimination of stigma and discrimination, enhanced access to affordable medicines and the reduction of vulnerability of persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other health issues. The Assembly also requested that UNAIDS submit, for consideration at its sixtieth session, an assessment of these processes, based on inputs received from Member States, including an analysis of common obstacles to scaling up and recommendations for addressing such obstacles, as well as for accelerated and expanded action.

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Towards universal access: assessment by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS on scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support

Summary

AIDS is one of the greatest leadership challenges of our time. Without urgent and long-term action, the epidemic will continue to take an unacceptable toll of death and suffering in countries and communities throughout the world.

In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), world leaders committed to a massive scaling up of HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all who need it. In July 2005, in the Gleneagles Communiqué, leaders of the Group of Eight countries expressed their strong support for working towards this goal. These ambitious commitments have brought the AIDS response to another historic juncture.

In response to the request of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 60/224, the secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) have helped to facilitate inclusive, country-led processes to develop practical strategies for moving towards universal access. In the present report, UNAIDS assesses those processes. The assessment includes an analysis of common obstacles and recommendations for overcoming them, through an exceptional approach in which HIV prevention, treatment, care and support are integrated with broader health and social services such as programmes for primary health care, mother and child health, sexual and reproductive health, tuberculosis, nutrition, orphans and vulnerable children, as well as formal and informal education.

Thousands of people from all walks of life have mobilized to seize this extraordinary opportunity:

(a) More than 100 low- and middle-income countries have held broad public debates about what needs to be done to turn back the epidemic;

(b) Seven regional consultations were held, under the leadership of the African Union, the Caribbean Community Secretariat and Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Latin American Horizontal Technical Cooperation Group on HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the participation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation;

(c) The UNAIDS secretariat convened a multipartner Global Steering Committee to identify global-level actions, to provide insights and inspiration and to act as a political sounding board.

The country processes build on earlier efforts, such as the "3 by 5" initiative to expand HIV treatment. The number of people on antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries nearly doubled in 2005 alone, from 720,000 to 1.3 million. However, there were 4.9 million new HIV infections in 2005 — the vast majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries. At this rate of new infections, the Millennium Development Goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV by 2015

will be unattainable and the world will only move farther away from universal access.

A renewed emphasis on HIV prevention is critically needed. Scaling up prevention is essential in its own right to prevent the suffering of individuals, to alleviate the impact of AIDS and to address the spiralling costs of HIV treatment. The internationally agreed UNAIDS policy paper "Intensifying HIV prevention" provides a framework for strengthening evidence-informed HIV prevention within a comprehensive response, including treatment, care and support for those infected and affected by HIV. The success of the movement towards universal access will depend largely on whether leaders can mount a massive social mobilization to dramatically decrease the number of new HIV infections, along with urgent efforts to increase HIV treatment coverage for millions of people already infected.

AIDS is an exceptional threat to global progress. AIDS destroys the social fabric of many communities and countries. The epidemic is exceptional because of its complexity, requiring policymakers to address deep social taboos concerning sexual behaviours, drug use, power relations between women and men, poverty and death.

Diverse definitions for the phrase "as close as possible to universal access" emerged from the consultations. The provision of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to all who need them is an extremely ambitious goal. The concept of universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to information and services. Scaling up towards universal access should be equitable, accessible, affordable, comprehensive and sustainable.

Consultation participants widely agreed that greater accountability is required to stimulate urgent and sustainable progress. Countries are ready to set their own ambitious targets, based on what they can and should achieve by 2010. The UNAIDS secretariat and the World Health Organization will provide countries with a small set of key indicators and guidelines to help set national targets for measuring progress towards universal access.

A number of key challenges that stand in the way of scaling up towards universal access emerged from the consultations. Financing to implement AIDS plans is inadequate, and funding is often unpredictable and of too short duration, reducing the ability of Governments to sustain the delivery of AIDS programmes.

In many low-income countries, scaling up requires breaking the downward spiral of human resource depletion, in which insufficient numbers of staff are being trained to replace those lost. The consultations decried the fact that HIV-related commodities are not affordable and readily available, while new technologies are badly needed.

The consultations described the fear — fed by widespread stigma and discrimination, violence against women, homophobia and other HIV-related human rights abuses — that discourages people from seeking the information and services that will protect them from HIV infection or determine whether they are already carrying the virus. Stigma and discrimination can impede people living with HIV from adopting safe behaviours and seeking access to HIV treatment and care programmes. These factors too often block policymakers from ensuring that young

people have the capacity to make informed decisions to protect themselves from HIV infection.

The regional consultations underscored that there is no single AIDS epidemic. Rather, the epidemics coursing through the world are varied, both among and within regions, and even within individual countries. Because the epidemics vary in their intensity, pace and impact, locally tailored prevention, treatment, care and support responses need to be developed.

On the basis of these challenges and the solutions proposed in the country, regional and global consultations, UNAIDS has identified six major requirements for reaching our common goal. For each, specific recommendations are included within the main body of the present assessment. Those recommendations will help overcome major obstacles impeding countries from scaling up integrated AIDS programmes and moving towards universal access. It will not be easy to break the vicious cycle of new HIV infections, put millions of people in need on antiretroviral treatment, significantly expand evidence-informed HIV prevention, deal with the legacy of inequality of women and girls and care properly for millions of children orphaned by AIDS and other vulnerable children. But much more can be done now. Moving towards universal access will be possible only through urgent and concerted action by a broad political coalition to support the response to the epidemic.

In the future, historians must record that world leaders in 2006 did everything in their power to end AIDS.

I. The challenge

Seizing the momentum

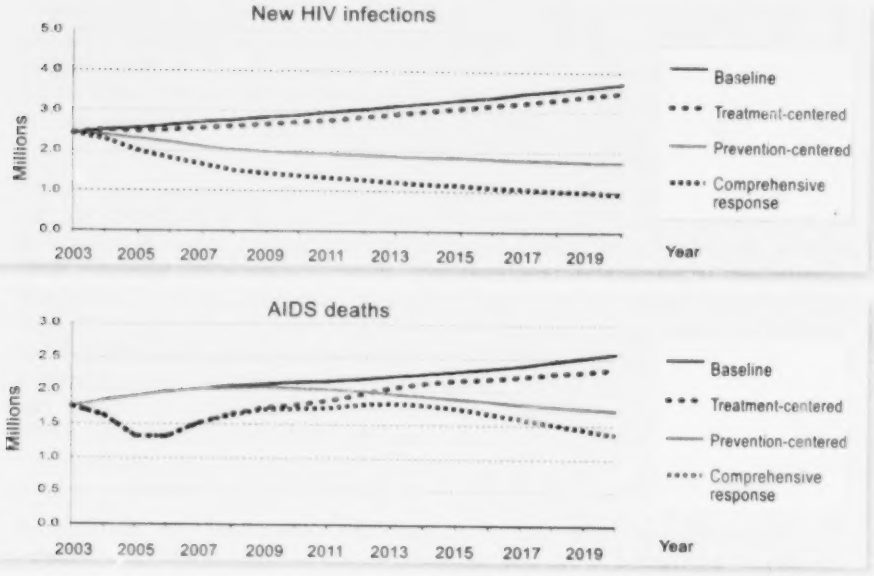
1. AIDS continues to be one of the most destructive epidemics in human history. The spread of HIV continues to outpace the global response.[1] Important progress, however, has been achieved in the last five years. The adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in June 2001 of the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly[2] was a watershed moment when the world recognized the challenge posed by AIDS and pledged to take action.

2. A strong foundation has been built on the Declaration of Commitment. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was established to provide low- and middle-income countries with additional financing. More domestic and international resources have been mobilized. Prices of some AIDS medicines have been greatly reduced, and the "3 by 5" initiative helped to mobilize a substantial increase in people on antiretroviral treatment. The "Three Ones" principles for the coordination of AIDS responses and the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination Among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors are improving the efficiency and effectiveness of resource utilization. The Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS campaign is putting children affected by AIDS at the centre of the AIDS agenda. This foundation lies within larger international efforts to quicken the pace of development and end poverty.[3]

3. Major steps have been taken in recent years, especially in the expansion of treatment. The number of people on antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries nearly doubled in 2005 alone, from 720,000 to 1.3 million.[4] However, there were 4.9 million new HIV infections in 2005 — the vast majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries.[5] At this rate of new infections, the world will only move farther away from universal access. The Millennium Development Goal of halting and reversing the spread of HIV by 2015 will also be unattainable.

4. A renewed emphasis on evidence-informed HIV prevention — guided by the internationally agreed Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) policy paper "Intensifying HIV prevention"[6] — is required within a comprehensive response, including care and support for those infected and affected by HIV. As the figure illustrates, just as the prospect of HIV treatment is a key to the success of many prevention efforts, significant progress towards universal access to treatment requires that HIV prevention programmes greatly reduce the number of new infections. Prevention makes treatment more affordable, and treatment makes prevention more effective.

Projected new adult infections and total adult deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, in millions, by 2020:
impact of three scenarios compared to baseline



Source: Salomon, J. A. et al., Integrating HIV Prevention and Treatment: From Slogan to Impact. PLoS Medicine. January 2005, vol. 2, issue 1.

AIDS: an exceptional epidemic

5. AIDS poses an exceptional threat to global progress and stability. In the last 25 years the epidemic has grown from a few isolated cases to over 65 million infections, and the number of new infections continues to grow each year. Nearly 25 million women, men and children have died, and only a fraction of the 40.3 million people living with the virus are even aware of their infection. Fewer still have access to the HIV medicines they need to stay alive.[5]

6. Lack of human rights protection, poverty and marginalization allow HIV to take root in society's most vulnerable populations. For example, there is often poor provision of services for men who have sex with men, sex workers and injecting drug users as a result of discrimination and political and social taboos. Young people and women are particularly vulnerable to infection due to their lack of economic and social power and autonomy in their sexual lives. They are often denied the tools and information required to avoid infection and cope with AIDS. Women and girls make up 57 per cent of all people infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, where a striking 76 per cent of young people (aged 15-24 years) living with HIV are female.[5]

7. AIDS poses unique challenges for health and social systems. Moving towards universal access requires systems that can sustain services to prevent and treat HIV on an everyday basis. In many low-income countries, public health, education and

other social service systems are already buckling under the weight of sickness and death from AIDS, and skilled workers are leaving for better opportunities elsewhere.

8. AIDS is a social and cultural issue. Confronting the epidemic requires discussion and action on issues that some societies find uncomfortable, such as gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, sex work, homosexuality and injecting drug use.

9. AIDS is a health issue. Confronting the epidemic requires a stronger integrated response to AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases, stronger primary health care, stronger maternal health care, stronger sexual and reproductive health programmes and stronger paediatric care.

10. AIDS is a development issue. The spread of HIV is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Confronting the epidemic requires stronger action on education, nutrition and child survival.

11. AIDS is a human security issue. In countries where nearly half of the adult population is living with HIV, the political, economic and social security of the country is threatened.

12. If left on its current course, AIDS will prevent achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in highly affected countries and will place more and more countries at risk of social and political instability.

Quickening the pace

13. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/224, the UNAIDS secretariat and co-sponsors have assisted in facilitating inclusive, country-driven processes to identify practical actions for scaling up AIDS services towards universal access. Thousands of people from all walks of life quickly mobilized to seize this extraordinary opportunity. More than 100 low- and middle-income countries have held broad public debates about what needs to be done to turn back the epidemic. Seven regional consultations were held. The UNAIDS secretariat also convened a multipartner Global Steering Committee.[6]

14. Diverse definitions for the phrase "as close as possible to universal access" emerged from the consultations. The provision of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services to all who need them is an extremely ambitious goal that has seldom, if ever, been achieved, even in high-income countries. Nonetheless, the concept of universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to services and information.

15. The urgent need to quicken the pace of the AIDS response has been highlighted in the Secretary-General's new report entitled "The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: five years later" (A/60/736). On the basis of country progress reports on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment, that report states that many countries have failed to fulfil their pledges. Progress is uneven among countries and regions, and within countries there is variable progress on individual targets and milestones. Some have made great strides in expanding access to treatment but have made little progress in bringing HIV prevention programmes to scale, while other countries experiencing a reduction in national HIV

prevalence are making only slow progress on treatment. According to the Secretary-General's report, several important global targets for 2005 set in the Declaration of Commitment were not met.

II. Recommendations from the consultations

16. The present section of the assessment consolidates, though not exhaustively, the results of country, regional and global consultations into an analysis of major obstacles to scaling up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. On the basis of that analysis, UNAIDS has identified the major requirements to overcome these obstacles and recommended specific actions to help meet those requirements. At the end of each specific recommendation, a suggested deadline for its implementation has been included.

Setting and supporting national priorities

1. No credible, costed, evidence-informed, inclusive and sustainable national AIDS plan should go unfunded.

1.1. National AIDS authorities and their partners, with the full participation of all stakeholders, should develop or adapt prioritized and costed AIDS plans that are aligned with national development plans and that are ambitious but feasible for reaching their targets for moving towards universal access. (December 2006)

1.2. The UNAIDS secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank will facilitate a participatory process to provide criteria for the development and oversight of prioritized, costed, aligned and evidence-informed national AIDS plans. (December 2006)

1.3. National Governments should ensure that the impact of AIDS is included in the core indicators for measuring progress in implementing national development and poverty-reduction plans. (December 2007)

1.4. National Governments, with the assistance of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank where needed, should initiate a transparent and inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders to ensure that fiscal space is created for AIDS spending as high-priority social expenditure. (December 2007)

1.5. Once a credible and sustainable plan is in place, conditions on donor funding for national AIDS programmes should be reduced to those that relate to good governance, fiduciary safeguards and the effective use of these funds to achieve national objectives. (December 2006)

17. The need for credible, sustainable AIDS plans as the basis for national budgetary allocations and international donor financing was a central theme throughout the consultations. The Middle East and North Africa consultation reported that there were few national AIDS plans with multisectoral involvement in the region. All regional consultations and the Global Steering Committee stressed the importance of civil society participation at every stage of planning,

implementation and monitoring, including public financial management and tracking of expenditures.

18. While recognizing the importance of promoting sustainability, maintaining macroeconomic stability and fostering rapid growth, Global Steering Committee members from low-income countries reported that excessively tight deficit-reduction and inflation-reduction targets constrain the hiring and retention of the doctors, nurses, community health-care workers, teachers and administrators who are needed to scale up. The Africa consultation, along with many Global Steering Committee members, called for international finance institutions, health and finance ministries, national AIDS authorities and civil society to adjust macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks to address the reality of AIDS.

19. Once a credible and sustainable plan is in place, limiting conditions imposed by donors to generally agreed areas such as governance, financial accountability and sustainability would quicken the utilization of funding and support greater alignment with national priorities. The Africa consultation called for an end to all conditionality except normal fiduciary requirements.

Predictable and sustainable financing

2. Meet AIDS funding needs through greater domestic and international spending and enable countries to have access to predictable and long-term financial resources.

2.1. National Governments and international donors should significantly increase the financial resources available for AIDS by strengthening and fulfilling existing commitments,[7] by fully supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and by supporting other innovative financing mechanisms,[8] for both public-sector and non-governmental providers of AIDS interventions. (Immediate and ongoing)

2.2. International donors and partner countries should adhere to the "Three Ones" principles[9] and implement the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors for the efficient and effective use of financial resources, including through alignment to national priorities. (December 2006)

2.3. The UNAIDS secretariat, with the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, should commission a group of experts to explore, in collaboration with existing replenishment mechanisms, options to make domestic and international funding for AIDS more long-term and predictable. (June 2007)

20. Financial resources available for AIDS today fall far short of what is needed to move towards universal access. UNAIDS estimates that the amount needed for an expanded response in low- and middle-income countries will increase from $14.9 billion in 2006 to $22.1 billion in 2008.[10] Financial resource needs for AIDS are increasing over time for two main reasons: first, increasing numbers of people living with HIV are falling ill, and second, spending is increasing as AIDS programmes are expanding to serve more of those in need.

21. On the basis of current estimates of commitments, there may be annual resource gaps of as much as $6 billion in 2006 and $8 billion in 2007. To close the gap, existing domestic financing and international donor commitments must be fulfilled and new ones made, and innovative financing mechanisms should be supported to tap new sources of funding.

22. A long-term effort to end AIDS depends on an increase in public expenditure by low- and middle-income countries. Domestic spending — estimated at $2.8 billion in 2006, or 31 per cent of total available AIDS funding — has risen in recent years, but remains insufficient. Middle-income countries, in particular, can expand domestic spending on their AIDS responses. Participants in the Africa consultation called on the African Union to mobilize its member States to fulfil the financing target of the 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. In that Declaration, African nations committed to allocating at least 15 per cent of their annual budgets to improve the health sector, including in respect of AIDS.

23. In low-income countries, official development assistance will continue to be the main source of AIDS financing. Many low- and middle-income countries, strongly supported by civil society and people living with HIV, called for full funding of the Global Fund to obtain the resources that countries need to scale up AIDS programmes. Additional resources that are needed for United Nations organizations to provide greater technical assistance to countries.

24. The Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, South Africa, Tajikistan, Togo and Turkey were among many countries that highlighted insufficient or unpredictable financial resources as major constraints. Global Steering Committee members called for long-term domestic and international investment to enhance the continuity of AIDS interventions and build institutional capacity.

25. Efforts to mobilize resources should be supplemented by better tracking of AIDS expenditures, which should be carried out with involvement of the full range of stakeholders. The Mali and Nigeria consultations highlighted the importance of estimating national funding needs and tracking and publicly reporting AIDS funding and expenditures.

Strengthening human resources and systems

3. Adopt large-scale measures to strengthen human resources to provide HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and to enable health, education and social systems to mount an effective AIDS response.

3.1. Countries should adopt, where needed, alternative and simplified delivery models to strengthen the community-level provision of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including measures to enable the shifting of tasks such as the prescribing of drugs, HIV testing and counselling, and behaviour change communication to nurses, educators and community workers, including people living with HIV. (June 2007)

3.2. **National Governments and international donors should take measures, where needed, to retain and motivate health workers, educators and community workers, including through better wages, housing, benefits and safe and secure working conditions. (June 2007)**

3.3. **National Governments and international donors should increase financing for training and accreditation centres in countries facing severe human resource shortages. (December 2007)**

3.4. **National Governments should greatly expand their capacity to deliver comprehensive AIDS programmes in ways that strengthen existing health and social systems, including by integrating AIDS interventions into programmes for primary health care, mother and child health, sexual and reproductive health, tuberculosis, nutrition, orphans and vulnerable children, as well as formal and informal education. (December 2008)**

26. The lack of human resources for health, education and social services heads the list of obstacles to expanding AIDS programmes in most low-income countries. The Africa consultation left no doubt that this shortage is at crisis levels on that continent. Numerous consultations in Africa — including those in Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Somalia and Togo — stressed that moving towards universal access in their countries is not possible without bold measures to address severe shortages of people to deliver AIDS services.

27. Lack of human resource capacity is not an issue for Africa alone. A shortage of health human resources was cited as a primary obstacle to the delivery of antiretroviral therapy and other HIV interventions in consultations in Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bulgaria, Guyana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka and Suriname and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

28. A common thread among regional consultations in Africa and the Commonwealth of Independent States and consultations in countries hardest hit by AIDS was that many health-care providers, teachers, judges and social-sector workers suffer from demotivating working environments and salary levels, making it difficult for some countries to retain their skilled personnel. In some countries, remuneration levels are below subsistence levels. This problem is exacerbated by the much higher salaries in high-income countries, which increasingly rely upon skilled workers from the South to deliver health services.

29. The Ghana, Kenya and Philippines consultations reported that low pay and difficult working conditions were causing emigration of nurses, pharmacists and doctors in record numbers. The Guyana, Lesotho, Mongolia, Rwanda, Sudan and United Nations-administered province of Kosovo consultations identified the need to offer improved remuneration to retain skilled workers in the public sector.

30. The consultations consistently stressed that scaling up AIDS programmes requires robust, flexible health and social systems. Country consultations, particularly in Africa, reported how the epidemic is increasing the demands on already strapped systems. The Africa consultation recommended stronger links between AIDS interventions and wider health, education and social services. HIV prevention, treatment, care and support must be provided alongside and, wherever possible, through sexual and reproductive health programmes, mother and child

health services and treatment services for tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections.

31. The Global Steering Committee called for an integrated approach through broad "implementation partnerships" involving government (ministries of finance, health and education, local government and public service commissions), representatives of civil society, faith-based organizations, professional associations and labour unions, and private sector employers, as well as flexible funding for the district, local and community levels. The Committee emphasized the need for national Government and international donors to establish special budgeting at the country level for human resources through medium-term human resource strategic frameworks.

32. The implementation of alternative, lower-cost human resource models for the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support — including the deployment of auxiliary and community workers and engaging people living with HIV in the development and delivery of services — is urgently required in some countries. Global Steering Committee participants called for innovative delivery models that utilize community capacity and the resourcefulness of people living with HIV, with professional capacity-building and backstopping when needed.

33. The Albania consultation called for the national AIDS programme to begin training people living with HIV in self-care, palliative care and nursing care. The Africa consultation called for the innovative use, without sacrificing quality, of Africa's available human resources, including those within civil society. The Madagascar and Sudan consultations requested international assistance to strengthen national and regional training programmes, including for non-medical personnel.

34. Lessons learned from Malawi in the areas of task-shifting and creative retention policies were cited in the Africa consultation and the Global Steering Committee. The Malawi Government is working with donors to implement a six-year emergency programme for strengthening human resources in the health sector.

Affordable commodities

4. Remove major barriers — in pricing, tariffs and trade, regulatory policy, and research and development — to speed up access to affordable, quality HIV-prevention commodities, medicines and diagnostics.

4.1. National Governments, where needed, should remove legal, regulatory or other barriers that block access to effective HIV-prevention interventions and commodities such as condoms and harm reduction.[11] (June 2007)

4.2. The United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization (WHO) — in collaboration with existing global and regional procurement facilities, and by promoting informed demand forecasting and bulk procurement, differential pricing and, where appropriate, voluntary licensing — will help lower prices for HIV prevention and treatment commodities, including second- and third-line antiretrovirals. (Immediate and ongoing)

4.3. **Countries should reform their legislation and tax codes, where needed, to exempt HIV prevention and treatment commodities, including HIV medicines, from all taxes and tariffs. (June 2007)**

4.4. **National Governments, with support from international partners and multilateral organizations, should employ, where needed, the flexibilities in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) to secure access to a sustainable supply of affordable HIV medicines and essential health technologies, including through local production, where feasible. (December 2007)**

4.5. **Countries should reform their legislation and regulations, as necessary, to allow medicines pre-qualified by WHO, or medicines approved by other widely recognized stringent drug regulatory bodies, to obtain provisional marketing approval to allow access to life-saving HIV medicines and diagnostics prior to full registration by national drug regulatory authorities. (Immediate and ongoing)**

4.6. **Pharmaceutical companies, international donors, multilateral organizations and other partners should develop public-private partnerships to promote quicker development of paediatric antiretroviral formulations and other medicines, and new HIV-related pharmaceutical products (HIV vaccines, microbicides). (Immediate and ongoing)**

35. Nearly all consultations stressed that the availability of affordable HIV-related commodities — including quality medicines and diagnostics, male and female condoms, other HIV-prevention technologies and nutritional support for children and adults affected by AIDS — is critical to scaling up comprehensive AIDS services.

36. Male latex condoms should be provided free or at low cost and their use actively promoted as part of a comprehensive prevention programme. Given the "feminization" of the epidemic, expanding the provision of female condoms and accelerating the development of microbicides are crucial.

37. Increasingly, people on HIV treatment will need to switch from first-line antiretrovirals to second- and third-line combinations. Few simple and palatable antiretrovirals are available to treat children. The prices of newer medicines and some viral monitoring equipment remain high. The Asia and the Pacific and Latin America consultations expressed concern that countries in their regions are unable to procure patented HIV medicines at affordable prices.

38. Consultations in Latin America, Africa and Asia and the Pacific called for support for countries to use the flexibilities in the WTO TRIPS Agreement, such as compulsory licensing, to enhance access to affordable generic HIV medicines. Concern was expressed that some low- and middle-income countries are opting for more extensive patent protection than required under the WTO intellectual property rules. Many Global Steering Committee members and the regional consultations in Latin America and Africa called for a programme to support countries in utilizing these flexibilities. The regional consultations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and South-Eastern Europe called for the establishment of regional mechanisms for price negotiations and procurement.

39. HIV-related commodities are subject to taxes and tariffs in many countries, increasing their prices. Efforts to eliminate these taxes and tariffs as soon as possible were widely urged throughout the consultative process.

40. Reports from a number of national consultations showed that increasing numbers of countries are seeking local production capacity for HIV medicines. Consultations called for greater local production to increase the number of suppliers and enhance generic competition, where local production is economically viable.

41. National laws may create barriers in access to effective HIV prevention interventions and commodities, such as harm reduction measures for injecting drug users. Regional consultations in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Middle East and North Africa all called attention to the importance of addressing barriers in access to evidence-informed prevention interventions. Country consultations in Kazakhstan, Mauritius, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and elsewhere reported legal barriers to the distribution of HIV-related commodities.

42. The Global Steering Committee identified delays in the regulatory approval of new products as a major obstacle in making HIV treatment and prevention technologies rapidly available to users. Countries are not yet taking full advantage of the WHO pre-qualification process, or qualification by other stringent drug regulatory authorities, to expedite the availability of HIV-related medicines and commodities on a provisional basis prior to full approval by the respective country regulatory authorities.

43. The Africa and Latin America consultations identified weak procurement and distribution systems as a continuing challenge in respect of the availability of HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment commodities. Poor information and demand forecasting within health systems limit collective regional and global efforts to negotiate lower prices and can result in inadequate supply.

Stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights

5. Protect and promote the AIDS-related human rights of people living with HIV, women and children, and people in vulnerable groups,[7] and ensure that they are centrally involved in all aspects of the response.

5.1. National Governments and international donors should prioritize funding for social mobilization campaigns in local languages to protect and promote AIDS-related rights and eliminate HIV-associated stigma and discrimination. (Immediate and ongoing)

5.2. National Governments and international donors should increase funding for programmes to address gender inequalities that fuel the epidemic among women and girls, reform and enforce legislation, where needed, to protect women and girls from harmful traditional practices and from sexual violence in and outside marriage and ensure equality in domestics relations, including in respect of property and inheritance rights of women and girls. (Immediate and ongoing)

5.3. **National Governments should, where needed, establish and enforce legislation and policies to eliminate AIDS-associated stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV, injecting drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men and other vulnerable populations. (December 2007)**

5.4. **National Governments and international donors should increase funding for networks and organizations of people living with HIV to provide HIV prevention and treatment literacy[13] campaigns in local languages aimed at increasing awareness and improving the delivery of HIV prevention and treatment. (Immediate and ongoing)**

5.5. **Countries should promote, through global and national campaigns, the ideal that each person knows his or her HIV status and has access to AIDS information, counselling and related services, in a social and legal environment that is supportive and safe for confidential testing[14] and voluntary disclosure of HIV status. (December 2006)**

5.6. **Countries should promote equitable access to AIDS interventions by reviewing their health system policies to reduce or eliminate user fees for AIDS-related prevention, treatment, care and support. (June 2007)**

44. Country and regional consultations consistently reported that legal, social and cultural barriers are undermining access to interventions for those most at risk of HIV infection and most affected by AIDS. Violence against women, drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men and other HIV-related human rights abuses are still widespread. However, HIV-related human rights are not high enough among the priorities of national Governments, donors or human rights organizations.

45. Many people fear that seeking AIDS-related information and services will brand them as social outcasts and expose them to discrimination, rejection or even violence from their families and communities. The country consultation in Ghana reported that continuing stigma attached to AIDS prevents many Ghanaians from seeking access to HIV counselling, testing, and treatment and care services. Many regional and country consultations identified homophobia, gender inequalities and discrimination against people in vulnerable groups as major barriers.

46. The low status of women in many societies fuels the transmission of HIV and worsens its impact. The Africa consultation emphasized that scaling up towards universal access would not be possible on that continent without a central focus on the needs of women and girls. The Middle East and North Africa consultation reported that gender inequality, discriminatory laws, and stigma and discrimination were constraining AIDS programmes. At the country consultation in Pakistan, participants reported that gender discrimination was blocking access to health services. The Asia and the Pacific consultation called attention to the fact that marriage and women's own fidelity are not enough to protect them against HIV infection. The Global Steering Committee emphasized that women and girls do not have widespread access to HIV-protective methods they can easily afford, initiate and control. Female condoms are not yet widely accessible, and far greater urgency is required in the development of new prevention technologies such as microbicides.

47. Many consultations stressed that the development and enforcement of supportive laws and protection of human rights — including the rights of women and children — must remain priorities. The Asia and the Pacific consultation called

on Governments in the region to review legislation that is inconsistent with national AIDS-control policies. The need for new laws that protect people living with HIV and members of vulnerable groups, or the strengthening and enforcement of existing legislation, was noted at the country consultations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Madagascar, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Swaziland, Sierra Leone and the United Nations-administered province of Kosovo.

48. Increasing the number of people who know their HIV status is critical for reaching more people in need of treatment, preventing mother-to-child transmission and providing intensive prevention services, especially for discordant couples. Civil-society participants in national, regional and global consultations emphasized that HIV testing must be informed and voluntary. Insufficient access to confidential HIV testing was cited in consultations in Albania, Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Somalia, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations-administered province of Kosovo. Some high-burden countries reported that they now routinely offer HIV testing to patients in all clinical and community-based health-service settings.

49. Greater resources and political commitment must be mobilized to address problems of stigma, discrimination, gender and human rights. Two specific approaches that received support in the consultations were social mobilization campaigns and efforts to increase the involvement of people living with HIV in the provision of prevention and treatment literacy messages.

50. Numerous consultations identified user fees for health and education as an obstacle restricting access, especially for people living below the poverty line. Even small user fees can impose a significant financial burden on individuals and families and undermine adherence to HIV treatment regimens and the use of prevention commodities. Countries such as Botswana, Brazil, Ethiopia, Senegal, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia have all adjusted health-financing policy to eliminate user fees for HIV treatment at the point of service delivery.[4]

51. The country consultation in China applauded the Government's new "Four Frees and One Care" policy, which calls for free antiretroviral therapy for rural residents or people with financial difficulties living in urban areas; free voluntary counselling and testing; free services to prevent mother-to-child transmission and HIV testing of newborn babies; free schooling for children orphaned by AIDS; and care and economic assistance for affected households.

Targets and accountability

6. Every country should set in 2006 ambitious AIDS targets that reflect the urgent need to massively scale up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and move as close as possible to the goal of universal access by 2010.

6.1. Every country should develop action plans to reach by 2008 at least 50 per cent of its 2010 targets. (December 2006)

6.2. The UNAIDS secretariat and WHO will provide countries with a small set of key indicators and guidelines to help set national targets and measure progress towards the goal of universal access. (Immediate and ongoing)

6.3. **Countries should ensure the accountability of all partners through transparent peer-review mechanisms for the public monitoring of targets and regular reporting of country and regional progress towards the goal of universal access. (Immediate and ongoing)**

6.4. **Countries should establish inclusive and transparent national processes, involving parliaments and civil society, for public financial management and expenditure tracking to verify the allocation, use and impact of AIDS funding. (Immediate and ongoing)**

6.5. **National Governments, international donors, United Nations agencies, civil society and other stakeholders should ensure mutual accountability at the country level through participatory reviews of national AIDS responses. (June 2007)**

52. The consultations widely agreed that improved accountability mechanisms are crucial to motivate, sustain, measure and publicly report progress towards universal access. Setting ambitious but feasible national targets for 2010, with specific and bold intermediate targets for 2008, is essential for countries to prioritize their efforts, mobilize resources and monitor and evaluate their results. If national target-setting and tracking are standardized through global guidance, the results can be aggregated to produce regional and global targets. This approach to target-setting responds to the wide range of coverage of AIDS interventions from country to country.

53. The Latin America consultation called on global-level partners to develop tools to evaluate progress towards universal access at the country and the regional level. UNAIDS, working closely with the Global Steering Committee, is proposing a limited number of existing indicators to be used by countries to set targets for scaling up towards universal access (see annex). Guidelines for target-setting and a scorecard for tracking and reporting progress will be rapidly developed by the UNAIDS secretariat and WHO.

54. As agreed at the Africa consultation, any target-setting process should involve key stakeholders within government and civil society, preferably with existing national mechanisms such as national AIDS authorities, country coordinating mechanisms and national partnership forums. The tracking and reporting of progress against national targets should be inclusive and transparent.

55. Accountability can be further enhanced through public financial management and expenditure tracking that verifies the allocation, use and impact of AIDS spending. Transparency should be increased through the close involvement of parliamentarians and civil society.

56. The poor progress towards several global targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment demonstrates the need for countries to establish an adequate monitoring capacity for the timely adjustment of strategies. The Asia and the Pacific and Africa consultations called for the participation of peer review mechanisms or independent regional watchdog groups to promote ambitious target-setting, ensure transparency in country monitoring and reporting, and aggregate national targets into regional targets. The Latin America consultation supported regional tracking of progress.

57. Accountability is not limited to national Governments. United Nations agencies, international donors, civil society, governments and other stakeholders must be mutually accountable for fulfilling international commitments. The tracking of adherence to internationally agreed frameworks for harmonization and alignment could be enhanced through participatory review mechanisms and a scorecard-style accountability tool.

58. At the global level, UNAIDS should aggregate country targets into global targets, compile country and regional data to track progress towards universal access and provide annual reports within existing reporting mechanisms. Special annual reports on progress towards universal access must be made available to relevant multipartner meetings and the governing bodies of international organizations.

III. Conclusion

59. **The country, regional and global consultations have produced important recommendations for rapidly and dramatically improving the quality and scale of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support interventions and coming as close as possible to universal access.**

60. **At the comprehensive review and high-level meeting on AIDS, to be held from 31 May to 2 June 2006, world leaders will have the opportunity to set an ambitious global agenda to fulfil the commitments they have made. Moving towards universal access will require the world to overcome many obstacles. It will not be easy to break the vicious cycle of new HIV infections, put millions of people in need on antiretroviral treatment and care properly for millions of children orphaned by AIDS and other vulnerable children. But in the future, historians must record that world leaders in 2006 did everything in their power to end AIDS.**

Notes

[1] See A/60/736.

[2] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[3] These include the High-level Forum on Health-related Millennium Development Goals; the Education for All initiative; the Monterrey Consensus; the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; progress by developed countries to reach the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance; and the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least-Developed Countries.

[4] WHO/UNAIDS, *Progress on Global Access to HIV Antiretroviral Therapy: A Report on "3 by 5" and Beyond*, March 2006.

[5] UNAIDS, *AIDS Epidemic Update*, December 2005.

[6] "Intensifying HIV prevention" was endorsed on 29 June 2005 by the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS. This policy paper identifies the following essential programmatic actions for HIV prevention: prevent the sexual transmission of HIV; prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV; prevent the transmission of HIV through injecting drug use, including harm reduction measures; ensure the safety of the blood supply; prevent HIV transmission in health-care settings; promote greater access to voluntary HIV counselling and testing while promoting principles of confidentiality and consent; integrate HIV prevention into AIDS treatment services; focus on HIV prevention among young people; provide HIV-related information and

education to enable individuals to protect themselves from infection, confront and mitigate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and prepare for access to and use of vaccines and microbicides.

[7] See, e.g., Group of Eight commitments to increase official development assistance; the European Union pledge to commit an average of 0.56 per cent of national wealth for aid by 2010 and 0.7 per cent by 2015; the Monterrey Consensus; and the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. Special attention should be given to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

[8] Examples of innovative financing mechanisms mentioned during the Global Steering Committee consultations included the establishment of an International Finance Facility, the international solidarity contribution on airline tickets and various debt relief and debt conversion mechanisms.

[9] The internationally agreed "Three Ones" principles call for the coordination of a national AIDS response around one agreed AIDS action framework, one national coordinating authority (including government, civil society, people living with HIV and the private sector) and one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system.

[10] UNAIDS, "Resource needs for an expanded response to AIDS in low- and middle-income countries", August 2005.

[11] "Intensifying HIV prevention" states that preventing transmission of HIV through injecting drug use requires "a comprehensive, integrated and effective system of measures that consists of the full range of treatment options (notably drug substitution treatment) and the implementation of harm reduction measures (through, among others, peer outreach to injecting drug users, and sterile needle and syringe programmes), voluntary confidential HIV counselling and testing, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV among drug users (including condoms and prevention and treatment for sexually transmitted infections), access to primary health care and access to antiretroviral therapy. Such an approach must be based on promoting, protecting and respecting the human rights of drug users". In its endorsement of this document, the Programme Coordinating Board noted that the United States of America could not fund needle and syringe programmes as they are inconsistent with United States law and policy, and noted that this external partner cannot be expected to fund activities inconsistent with its own national laws and policies. Japan has also stated harm reduction programmes are inconsistent with its domestic policy.

[12] In this assessment, "populations most vulnerable to HIV exposure", "vulnerable groups", "most affected communities" and similar phrases include men who have sex with men, injecting and other drug users, sex workers, people living in poverty, prisoners, migrant labourers, people in conflict and post-conflict situations, and refugees and internally displaced persons.

[13] HIV "prevention and treatment literacy" refers generally to the possession of knowledge, skills and attitudes based on sound scientific evidence for people living with HIV to actively participate in their own prevention and treatment decisions and to contribute to the training of other HIV-positive people and members of their communities.

[14] The UNAIDS/WHO Policy Statement on HIV Testing states that testing of individuals must be confidential, accompanied by counselling, and with informed consent.

Annex

Selection of targets based on existing indicators

The following existing indicators are suggested as core and recommended indicators for determining national targets for moving towards universal access. Most countries are collecting information for these indicators as part of the monitoring of progress towards the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals. These indicators can serve to inform the selection of targets for 2008 and 2010, so that progress in all countries to achieve their targets can be monitored according to this common set of indicators. Core indicators should be used by all countries. Recommended indicators can be included to provide supplemental information on progress towards universal access.

Core indicators

Treatment

1. Percentage of women, men and children with advanced HIV infection who are receiving antiretroviral combination therapy.

Care and support

2. Percentage of orphans and vulnerable children (boys/girls) aged under 18 living in households where a basic external support package has been received.

Prevention

3. Percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission.

4. Percentage of general population or populations most at risk who received an HIV test in the past 12 months and were informed of the results.

5. Number of condoms distributed annually by the public sector and the private sector.

6. Percentage of young men and women aged 15 to 24 who have had sex before age 15.

National commitment

7. Amount of national funds disbursed by Governments in low- and middle-income countries.

Recommended indicators

Treatment

1. Percentage of adults and children with advanced HIV infection who are still alive 12 months after initiation of combination antiretroviral therapy.

Prevention

2. Percentage of young people (15-24) or members of groups at risk who correctly identify ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV — including delaying sexual debut, reducing number of partners and using condoms — and reject major misconceptions (male/female).

3. Percentage of populations most at risk reached by prevention programmes.

National commitment

4. Monitoring the implementation of the "Three Ones" principles, using the UNAIDS country checklist.

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General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 55 (a)
Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Proposed organization of the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004, decided to hold the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[1] in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, with modalities to be decided upon. In the same resolution it also decided to consider, at its sixtieth session, the modalities for conducting such a comprehensive review.

2. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/228 of 23 December 2005, decided to convene a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.

3. In the same resolution it was decided to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session, preferably from 4 to 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. In addition, the General Assembly emphasized that the midterm comprehensive global review should assess the progress made in the implementation of commitments and provide the occasion to reaffirm the goals and objectives agreed upon at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and

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constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for the further implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[1] as well as new challenges and emerging issues.

5. The General Assembly also requested the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures, as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the midterm comprehensive global review.

6. Recognizing the importance of the contribution of civil society in the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review, the General Assembly also requested the President of the General Assembly to organize one-day informal interactive hearings in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

7. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration by Member States, a note on the organizational aspects of the high-level meeting.

8. Proposed organizational arrangements have been formulated on the basis of resolution 60/228, taking into account the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/60/624.

II. Participation

A. Member States and Observers

9. Both the high-level meeting and the preparatory meeting of experts will be open to participation by Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

B. Non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector

10. Non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector will be invited to participate in the one-day informal hearings to be organized by the President of the General Assembly. The summary of the informal hearings will be transmitted by the President of the Assembly as an input to the high-level meeting. Accreditation will be open to all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities accredited to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

III. Organizational arrangements

A. Dates and venue

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/228, decided to hold the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday, 19 and 20 September 2006, days which coincide with the beginning of the general debate on 19 September 2006. In the statements to the Second and Fifth Committees[3] on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1, it was proposed that arrangements would have to be made to avoid such an overlap with the general debate. In view of this, the President of the General Assembly may consider holding informal consultations with Member States on alternative arrangements to be decided by the Assembly.

12. In addition, in view of the United Nations holiday on 4 September 2006, the three-day preparatory meeting of experts will be organized in New York from 5 to 7 September instead of from 4 to 6 September 2006.

13. The one-day informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on the theme "Forging partnership with civil society and the private sector for poverty reduction in least developed countries" will be organized by the President of the General Assembly on Thursday, 22 June 2006 in New York. All scheduled meetings will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

B. Overall theme

14. The proposed theme of the midterm comprehensive global review is: "Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: Redeeming the commitments".

C. Preparatory meeting of experts

15. The three-day preparatory meeting of experts will be opened on the morning of Tuesday, 5 September 2006, by the Chair appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States. At that meeting, the agenda and the programme of work will be adopted and three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur elected. In addition, three working groups will be established, each chaired by a Vice-Chair, to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action under seven commitments:

1. Fostering a people-centred policy framework
2. Good governance at national and international levels
3. Building human and institutional capacities
4. Building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries
5. Enhancing the role of trade in development

6. Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

7. Mobilizing financial resources for the arrangements for further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade.

16. Working Group I will focus on commitments 1 to 3; Working Group II will focus on the review of the implementation of commitments 4 to 7; and Working Group III will consider the arrangements for its further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up. The working groups will submit their reports as well as their proposals for the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting to the Chair. All proposals will be consolidated in a single document, which will be adopted and transmitted, through the Chair, as a draft outcome document for consideration and adoption by the high-level meeting (for the proposed organization of work of the preparatory meeting of experts, see annex I).

D. High-level meeting

17. The high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be held for two days (for the proposed programme of work of the high-level meeting, see annex II).

18. On the first day, the General Assembly will hold two plenary meetings. The plenary meeting in the morning will commence with an introductory statement by the President of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General will then be invited to make a statement. Statements by Member States and observers will follow.

19. The list of speakers will be established on the first-come, first-served basis. The principle of precedence will be strictly applied to accord priority to high-level participation.

20. On the second day, statements by Member States and observers will continue and the meeting will conclude with the adoption of the outcome document and a statement by the President of the General Assembly.

21. Statements during the plenary meetings will be limited to five minutes, although speakers will be allowed to distribute more extensive printed texts.

IV. Documentation

A. Pre-session documentation

22. Pre-session documentation for the high-level meeting will include:

- Report of the Secretary-General for the midterm comprehensive global review on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
- Summary of hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector
- Report of the preparatory meeting of experts held from 5 to 7 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York

- Draft outcome document of the high-level meeting
- Other documentation requested by the Member States.

B. Post-session documentation

23. Post-session documentation will include:

- Outcome document of the high-level meeting
- Verbatim records of the high-level meeting.

C. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

24. Inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, including the national reports of the least developed countries, the outcomes of the regional reviews in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia (Yemen) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Haiti), and sectoral reviews by the United Nations system and international organizations will be posted on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (see www.un.org/ohrlls).

V. Special events

25. A series of special events, including round tables, briefings and panel discussions on issues/areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action will be organized by Member States, entities of the United Nations system and multilateral organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The calendar of those events will also be made available on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

VI. Public information

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 60/228, requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the midterm comprehensive global review.

27. A special information kit will be prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In addition, various public information activities, in collaboration with organizations and bodies of the United Nations, will be organized in the coming months as part of the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review. All high-level meeting documents, as well as press releases on its plenary meetings will be available at the documents counter in the media area. They will also be made available electronically at the website of the Office of the High Representative.

28. The plenary meetings and press conferences will be broadcast live and will also be available on the United Nations website, in addition to which a programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

Notes

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[2] Ibid., chap. I.

[3] A/C.2/60/L.52 and A/C.5/60/24.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work of the preparatory meeting of experts for the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Tuesday, 5 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10-11 a.m. Item 1:
Opening of the meeting

Item 2:
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Item 3:
Election of the officers

Item 4:
Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Working Groups

11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Working Group I**
Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework
Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels
Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities

Working Group II
Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries
Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development
Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment
Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources

3-6 p.m. **Working Groups I and II** (*continued*)

Wednesday, 6 September 2006

Working Groups

10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Working Groups I and II** (*continued*)

3-6 p.m. **Working Group III (arrangements for further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up)**

Thursday, 7 September 2006

10 a.m.–1 p.m. **Working Group III** *(continued)*

3–5.45 p.m. Item 5:
Consideration of the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting

5.45–6 p.m. Item 6:
Adoption of the draft outcome document

Item 7:
Other business

Item 8:
Closing of the preparatory meeting of experts

Annex II

Proposed programme of work for the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Tuesday, 19 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10-10.30 a.m.	Opening of the high-level meeting by the President of the General Assembly
	Statement by the Secretary-General
	Organizational matters
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Plenary meeting

3-6 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Wednesday, 20 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Plenary meeting

3-5.30 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers
5.30-6 p.m.	Adoption of the draft outcome document
	Concluding statement by the President of the General Assembly

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Proposed organization of the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/244 of 22 December 2004, decided to hold the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[1] in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, with modalities to be decided upon. In the same resolution it also decided to consider, at its sixtieth session, the modalities for conducting such a comprehensive review.

2. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/228 of 23 December 2005, decided to convene a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.

3. In the same resolution it was decided to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session, preferably from 4 to 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. In addition, the General Assembly emphasized that the midterm comprehensive global review should assess the progress made in the implementation of commitments and provide the occasion to reaffirm the goals and objectives

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agreed upon at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for the further implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] as well as new challenges and emerging issues.

5. The General Assembly also requested the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures, as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the midterm comprehensive global review.

6. Recognizing the importance of the contribution of civil society in the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review, the General Assembly also requested the President of the General Assembly to organize one-day informal interactive hearings in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

7. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration by Member States, a note on the organizational aspects of the high-level meeting.

8. Proposed organizational arrangements have been formulated on the basis of resolution 60/228, taking into account the report of the Fifth Committee contained in document A/60/624.

II. Participation

A. Member States and Observers

9. Both the high-level meeting and the preparatory meeting of experts will be open to participation by Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

B. Non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector

10. Non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector will be invited to participate in the one-day informal hearings to be organized by the President of the General Assembly. The summary of the informal hearings will be transmitted by the President of the Assembly as an input to the high-level meeting. Accreditation will be open to all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities accredited to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

III. Organizational arrangements

A. Dates and venue

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/228, decided to hold the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday, 19 and 20 September 2006, days which coincide with the beginning of the general debate on 19 September 2006. In the statements to the Second and Fifth Committees[3] on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1, it was proposed that arrangements would have to be made to avoid such an overlap with the general debate. In view of this, the President of the General Assembly may consider holding informal consultations with Member States on alternative arrangements to be decided by the Assembly.

12. In addition, in view of the United Nations holiday on 4 September 2006, the three-day preparatory meeting of experts will be organized in New York from 5 to 7 September instead of from 4 to 6 September 2006.

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B. Overall theme

14. The proposed theme of the midterm comprehensive global review is: "Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: Redeeming the commitments".

C. Preparatory meeting of experts

15. The three-day preparatory meeting of experts will be opened on the morning of Tuesday, 5 September 2006, by the Chair appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States. At that meeting, the agenda and the programme of work will be adopted and three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur elected. In addition, three working groups will be established, each chaired by a Vice-Chair, to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action under seven commitments:

1. Fostering a people-centred policy framework
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3. Building human and institutional capacities
4. Building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries
5. Enhancing the role of trade in development

6. Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

7. Mobilizing financial resources for the arrangements for further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade.

16. Working Group I will focus on commitments 1 to 3; Working Group II will focus on the review of the implementation of commitments 4 to 7; and Working Group III will consider the arrangements for its further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up. The working groups will submit their reports as well as their proposals for the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting to the Chair. All proposals will be consolidated in a single document, which will be adopted and transmitted, through the Chair, as a draft outcome document for consideration and adoption by the high-level meeting (for the proposed organization of work of the preparatory meeting of experts, see annex I).

D. High-level meeting

17. The high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be held for two days (for the proposed programme of work of the high-level meeting, see annex II).

18. On the first day, the General Assembly will hold two plenary meetings. The plenary meeting in the morning will commence with an introductory statement by the President of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General will then be invited to make a statement. Statements by Member States and observers will follow.

19. The list of speakers will be established on the first-come, first-served basis. The principle of precedence will be strictly applied to accord priority to high-level participation.

20. On the second day, statements by Member States and observers will continue and the meeting will conclude with the adoption of the outcome document and a statement by the President of the General Assembly.

21. Statements during the plenary meetings will be limited to five minutes, although speakers will be allowed to distribute more extensive printed texts.

IV. Documentation

A. Pre-session documentation

22. Pre-session documentation for the high-level meeting will include:

- Report of the Secretary-General for the midterm comprehensive global review on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
- Summary of hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector
- Report of the preparatory meeting of experts held from 5 to 7 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York

- Draft outcome document of the high-level meeting
- Other documentation requested by the Member States.

B. Post-session documentation

23. Post-session documentation will include:

- Outcome document of the high-level meeting
- Verbatim records of the high-level meeting.

C. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

24. Inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, including the national reports of the least developed countries, the outcomes of the regional reviews in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Western Asia (Yemen) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Haiti), and sectoral reviews by the United Nations system and international organizations will be posted on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (see www.un.org/ohrlls).

V. Special events

25. A series of special events, including round tables, briefings and panel discussions on issues/areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action will be organized by Member States, entities of the United Nations system and multilateral organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The calendar of those events will also be made available on the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

VI. Public information

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 60/228, requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the midterm comprehensive global review.

27. A special information kit will be prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In addition, various public information activities, in collaboration with organizations and bodies of the United Nations, will be organized in the coming months as part of the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review. All high-level meeting documents, as well as press releases on its plenary meetings will be available at the documents counter in the media area. They will also be made available electronically at the website of the Office of the High Representative.

28. The plenary meetings and press conferences will be broadcast live and will also be available on the United Nations website, in addition to which a programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

Notes

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[2] Ibid., chap. I.

[3] A/C.2/60/L.52 and A/C.5/60/24.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work of the preparatory meeting of experts for the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Tuesday, 5 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10-11 a.m. Item 1:
Opening of the meeting

Item 2:
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Item 3:
Election of the officers

Item 4:
Midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Working Groups

11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Working Group I**
Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework
Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels
Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities

Working Group II
Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for least developed countries
Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development
Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment
Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources

3-6 p.m. **Working Groups I and II** (*continued*)

Wednesday, 6 September 2006

Working Groups

10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Working Groups I and II** (*continued*)

3-6 p.m. **Working Group II** (*continued*)

Working Group III (arrangements for further implementation, monitoring, coordination and follow-up)

Thursday, 7 September 2006

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**Working Group III** (*continued*) Combined meeting of Working Groups (*if needed*)
3-5.45 p.m.	Item 5: Consideration of the draft outcome document of the high-level meeting
5.45-6 p.m.	Item 6: Adoption of the draft outcome document
	Item 7: Other business
	Item 8: Closing of the preparatory meeting of experts

Annex II

Proposed programme of work for the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

United Nations Headquarters, New York
Tuesday, 19 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10-10.30 a.m.	Opening of the high-level meeting by the President of the General Assembly
	Statement by the Secretary-General
	Organizational matters
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Plenary meeting

3-6 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Wednesday, 20 September 2006

Plenary meeting

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers

Plenary meeting

3-5.30 p.m.	Statements by Member States and observers
5.30-6 p.m.	Adoption of the draft outcome document
	Concluding statement by the President of the General Assembly

United Nations

A/60/739

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 120
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 27 March 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are honoured to forward to you the report of the Workshop on Human Security, held under the joint auspices of the Governments of Japan and Mexico in Mexico City on 9 and 10 February 2006 (see annex).

The purpose of the Workshop was to provide an opportunity for substantive discussion of the concept of human security based on the 2003 report of the Commission on Human Security, entitled "Human security now: protecting and empowering people". The Workshop was widely attended by representatives from Governments, international organizations, civil society and academia, who engaged in a fruitful debate on various aspects of human security, such as sovereignty, armed conflict, reconstruction, migration, development and civil society. The report does not necessarily reflect the official position of each and every Government represented at the Workshop.

We believe that sharing the report with Member States and the Secretariat will contribute to the deliberations in the General Assembly on the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome. In this regard, we would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Enrique **Berruga**
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kenzo **Oshima**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

06-28638 (E) 060406

Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the Workshop on Human Security, organized by the Government of Mexico, in cooperation with the Government of Japan
Mexico City, February 9th and 10th, 2006

Background

1. The first discussions on the concept of human security were held in the United Nations in the late 1980's. However, it was until 1994 that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) further elaborated on the concept in its Human Development Report by identifying it as a concern for life and human dignity.[1]

2. UNDP was the first international body to promote the concept of human security in the post-Cold War era. Several governments, academic institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations have also worked to further the concept. Nevertheless, there is still no precise and inclusive definition of the concept of human security, making it necessary to continue to discuss what has been said and what actions have been taken in an effort to find common elements that could help the international community to reach a comprehensive definition, and to institutionalize a multilateral strategy needed to achieve it, particularly in the context of the United Nations.

3. As indicated by UNDP, the founders of the United Nations recognized two main components of human security: freedom from fear and freedom from want.[2] However, in the context of the Cold War, the concept of security was tilted in favor of territorial security. As a result of this, one of the goals of the 1994 Human Development Report was to enlarge the concept of security from territorial security to people's security, from security from armaments to security through sustainable human development.

4. According to the Report, there are certain characteristics necessary for the consideration of the concept of human security, mainly:
   - Human security is a universal concern;
   - The components of human security are interdependent;
   - Human security is easier to ensure through early prevention, and
   - Human security is people centered.

5. With regards to a definition for human security, the Report mentions two main aspects of the concept. The first is safety from chronic threats, such as hunger, disease and repression. The second aspect is the protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life, such as natural disasters.

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[1] United Nations Development Program. Human Development Report 1994. "New Dimensions of Human Security". New York. Oxford University Press. p. 22.
[2] Idem. p. 3.

6. In his Millennium Report to the United Nations, the UN Secretary General emphasized that a new understanding of the concept of security was evolving; instead of being limited to the protection of a State's borders, it now encompasses the protection of communities and individuals from internal violence During the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called upon the international community to advance the goals of "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want".,[3]

7. As a result, the Commission on Human Security was launched in 2001, with the blessing of the Secretary-General. The Commission was Co-Chaired by Sadako Ogata, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Amartya Sen, Economics Nobel Laureate. The Commission also received financial support from the Government of Japan, the Government of Sweden, the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Japan Center for International Exchange.

8. The Commission on Human Security had three main goals:
   - To promote public understanding, engagement and support of human security and its underlying imperatives;
   - To develop the concept of human security as an operational tool for policy formulation and implementation, and
   - To propose a concrete program of action to address critical and pervasive threats to human security.[4]

9. In May 2003, the Commission presented its report "Human Security Now, Protecting and Empowering People" to the UN Secretary General.[5] The report proposed a new framework of security that centers directly and specifically on people. According to the Commission, the concept of human security focuses on protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and empowers people to take act on their own behalf.[6]

10. In its report, the Commission addressed a number of interrelated issues concerning conflict and poverty and thus, promoted greater convergence of both freedom from fear and freedom from want. The five main issues identified in the report were: protecting people in conflict and post-conflict situations, shielding people forced to move, overcoming economic insecurities, guaranteeing essential health care, and ensuring universal education.[7]

11. The report stated that human security means:

> Protecting vital freedoms. It means protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and situations, building on their strengths and aspirations. It also means creating systems that give people the building blocks of survival, dignity and livelihood. Human Security connects different types of freedoms –freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to take action on one's own behalf. To do this, it offers two general strategies: protection and empowerment. Protection shields people from dangers. It requires concerted effort to

[3] "We the Peoples, the Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century". Millennium Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations. A/54/2000. March 3, 2000, p. 43.
[4] Information obtained from the Commission's website: www.humansecurity-chs.org. January 30, 2005.
[5] Commission on Human Security "Human Security Now. Protecting and Empowering People". New York. 2003.
[6] Idem, p. 2.
[7] Idem. Foreword.

develop norms, processes and institutions that systematically address insecurities. Empowerment enables people to develop their potential and become full participants in decision-making. Protection and empowerment are mutually reinforcing, and both are required in most situations.

Human Security at the regional and national levels

Organization of American States

12. At the regional level, the Organization of American States has been discussing the concept of hemispheric security since 1945, when the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace proposed a plan to respond to the security needs of the region.[8] Nevertheless, the discussion was limited to a traditional approach of the concept of security, in the context of the Cold War.

13. On 2001, the Third Summit of the Americas gathered 34 leaders of the region to address common hemispheric issues and challenges that included improved access to education, poverty alleviation, strengthening human rights and democracy and economic integration. The resulting Declaration of Quebec City determined the region's priorities and goals for the upcoming years, which recognized the need to "continue addressing weaknesses in the development processes and increasing human security".[9]

14. On October 2003, as a result of the Special Conference on Security held in Mexico under the auspices of the OAS, the Declaration on Security in the Americas was adopted. The Declaration defines hemispheric security as:

> multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty.[10]

15. This concept recognizes that security cannot be seen solely as the capacity of States to confront threats at the international level, but it is seen as a group of conditions that guarantee the wellbeing of individuals within the State. Through this logic, international security is based on State security, which is based on the security of its population.

16. In addition, the Declaration further states:

> In our Hemisphere, as democratic states committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OAS, we reaffirm that the basis and purpose of security is the protection of human beings. Security is strengthened when we deepen its human dimension. Conditions for human security are improved through full respect for people's

[8] Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the third plenary session of October 28, 2003. OEA/Ser.K/XXXVIII, CES/DEC. 1/03 rev.1

[9] Declaration of Quebec City, Third Summit of the Americas, April 2001

[10] Idem, art. 2.

> dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms, as well as the promotion of social and economic development, social inclusion, and education and the fight against poverty, disease, and hunger.[11]

17. This multidimensional definition of security not only brings together traditional threats to security but also an approach to security which is based on the individual. Among the realms covered by hemispheric security we can find: personal security, communitarian security, political security, economic security, nutritional security, health security and environmental security. Through these, the regional concept of security demands answers that imply the creation of political, economic, social and cultural systems that guarantee the basic elements of survival and dignity for the human being.

African Union

18. The effort to establish a security framework in Africa that is both comprehensive and coherent is recent. However, the origins of this concept can be found in African philosophy dating back from the 1960s. The 1991 OAU Kampala declaration "Towards a Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA)" states that:

> Security embraces all aspects of the society including economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoying all fundamental human rights.[12]

19. During the Lomé Summit in 2000, the Heads of State and Government participating in this Summit agreed to establish a framework for codifying into national laws and legislation the concept of human security.

20. In practice however, the majority of African governments have continued to consider issue of security mainly in terms of protecting the State, its institutions and borders. The initiatives that have been put into place focus mainly on protection against violence and physical insecurity, for example by addressing the circulation of light weapons, the use of anti-personnel mines and child soldiers.[13]

21. In order to address the concept of human security in Africa, special emphasis must be placed in the link between human security and human development, including the eradication of extreme poverty and sustainable development.[14]

22. Recent efforts at achieving human security in Africa include the creation of the African Union Peace and Security Council, and the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security.[15]

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[11] Idem, art. 4, e.

[12] Karim Hussein, Donata Gnisci and Julia Wanjiru, "Security and Human Security: An Overview of Concepts and Initiatives", December 2004, p. 15.

[13] Idem, p. 22.

[14] "Peace, Human Security and Conflict Prevention in Africa", UNESO-ISS Expert Meeting, Pretoria, South Africa, July 2001.

[15] Idem, p. 8.

European Union

23. Over the last few years, the European Union has been developing a common security policy, resulting in the European Security Strategy (ESS), which advocates preventive engagement and effective multilateralism.[16] The ESS encompasses three main elements: 1. A set of seven principles for operations in situations of severe insecurity that apply to both ends and means; 2. A Human Security Response Force, and 3. A new legal framework to govern both the decision to intervene and operations on the ground.[17]

24. In order to apply the concept of human security effectively in Europe, the root causes of conflicts have to be addressed. Among these factors are focusing on human rights, democracy, participation and accountability; European trade policy; the EU's commitment to multilateralism; the fight against HIV/AIDS, and financing for development.[18]

Other initiatives including following-up the World Summit Outcome

25. In recent years, several States have continued the work begun by UNDP and have promoted the view that contemporary security challenges have changed fundamentally from those of the past, bringing new promises as well as new threats.[19]

26. It has been argued that international security can no longer be defined exclusively in terms of the relationships between States; rather, it should be viewed as a commitment to put human life, human dignity, security and the wellbeing of peoples first. By broadening this focus, human security encompasses a wide range of elements to prevent and resolve violent conflict, to protect civilians in armed conflict and to increase the capacity of States to ensure the security of their people.[20]

27. It has also been emphasized that the concept of human security should be discussed by a wide and multidisciplinary alliance of national and international authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations.

28. Following the mandate contained in the World Summit Outcome Document (A/60/1), to "*discuss and define the notion of human security in the General Assembly*", the Mexican Government decided to organize a two-day workshop aimed at having an inclusive, representative and open-ended discussion on the concept of Human Security, having as a basis for the discussion, inter alia, the report of the Commission on Human Security to the Secretary General. The main purpose was to provide elements of the concept that could be a useful tool for future discussions within the General Assembly.

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[16] "A Human Security Doctrine for Europe. The Barcelona Report of the Study Group on Europe's Security Capabilities", Presented to the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, Barcelona, 15 September 2004.

[17] Ibid.

[18] "Human Security. Placing Development at the Heart of the EU's External Relations", briefing document prepared by Dr. Sven Grimm of Overseas Development Institute for Dóchas Irish EU Presidency Project, 2004.

[19] Freedom from fear. Canada's foreign policy for human security: http://www.humansecurity.gc.ca/freedom_from_fearen.asp, January 30, 2006.

[20] Ibid.

29. The Workshop was co-chaired by the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbez, and the Japanese Ambassador for Human Security, Ambassador Yukio Takasu. It brought together representatives from Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States of America and Uruguay, as well as academic experts, representatives of international organizations and civil society.

30. The summary of the debate held during the Workshop is presented under the same topics of the six round tables that composed the agenda of the meeting and does not prejudice or prioritize any of the issues discussed. Likewise, it does not necessarily reflect the official position of each and every Government that was represented at the Workshop.

31. Other additional information can be made available by requesting it to the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations.

I. Sovereignty and Human Security

32. The traditional definition of State security, as understood during the Cold War period has been largely surpassed in the last years. States are struggling with global phenomena, such as hunger, poverty or epidemics, putting the individual at the center of this debate. While the State has the primary responsibility to protect its citizens from these crises, international cooperation has become crucial to overcome them.

33. In this regard, human security is based on an intrinsic relationship between the individual, the State and the international community. It also entails the sources of state legitimacy and the responsibilities of the State towards its people, particularly in the areas of development, human rights and democracy.

34. As a consequence of the emphasis that some sectors have put on the human costs that result from internal violence or armed conflict and its links with the responsibility of the international community to protect populations, human security is often presented as incompatible with the sovereignty of the State. However, it lies at its very core.

35. The responsibility to protect is based on a strong vision of sovereignty—one that acknowledges that the State bears the primary responsibility to protect its population. However, as States have acknowledged at the world summit, the international community cannot sit idle in the face of large-scale systematic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

36. The concept of the Responsibility to Protect is characterized by three components: the responsibility to prevent conflict, to react to end it when it occurs, and to rebuild post-conflict countries. Preventing conflict before it occurs clearly affords the greatest protection to people, and attention must therefore be given first to planning and strengthening national and international capacities to prevent the outbreak of conflict through combined means, including State capacity-building,

empowerment of people, development programs, humanitarian assistance and human rights monitoring. When such means fail, and as a last resort to protect civilians, the World Summit Outcome endorses the Security Council-authorized use of Chapter VII force in the case of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The international community also has a concomitant responsibility to work to rebuild and reconstruct post-conflict states and to prevent the recurrence of conflict through long-term development.

37. It is important to note that, in spite of the positive steps that the international community has taken to ensure the protection of human rights, and as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, a number of States have tried to restrict human rights and justify international law violations for security reasons. As a consequence, the multilateral system is further weakened when States do not respect their international obligations, undermine international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law, and refuse to hold accountable those who may violate them. The promotion of such obligations through government, military and civil society actors is a critically important part of human security.

II. Armed Conflict and Human Security

38. The unprecedented activity of the international community and the engagement of the United Nations in peace and security matters have led to a significant decline in the number of armed conflicts throughout the world in the last decades.

39. Most of the conflicts are now internal rather than international, based on divisions between factions within a State, and may spill over beyond international borders. In addition, the factors that cause most current armed conflicts deviate significantly from traditional ones, e.g., competition over land and resources, sudden and deep political and economic transitions; growing inequality among people and communities; weak and unstable political systems and institutions, questions of identity intertwined with heavy historic legacies. In an environment of uncertainty, the interdependence between the security of the individual and the state of international peace and security is stronger and more immediate than ever.

40. States can ensure human security in the context of armed conflict in three stages:

- Before the conflict: *Preventive measures* should include the promotion of political, social, economic and cultural rights; programs on education for peace, early warning systems, combating arms trafficking – for instance putting in place an efficient tracing system of small and light arms -; strengthening the existing human rights norms and ensuring widespread knowledge and better respect for international humanitarian law, such as the prohibition of children participating in hostilities, anti-personal mines, etc; ensuring the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the establishment of cooperation programs for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and of an effective legal framework aiming to prevent and repress the recruitment and training of mercenaries; the use of preventive peacekeeping deployments, pro-active diplomatic initiatives including mediation and good offices, and the effective use of targeted sanctions and expert panels.
- During conflict: *Containment measures* such as the full implementation of international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law to protect civilians, including through implementation of relevant Security Council

resolutions on protection of civilians; the Responsibility to Protect; avoiding the use of antipersonnel mines, and ensuring safe and unhindered access of independent, neutral and impartial humanitarian personnel to vulnerable populations.

- Post conflict: *Reconciliatory measures* such as the deployment of fact finding missions, prosecuting war criminals, ensuring the rule of law and supporting the safe return of international displaced persons and refugees.

41. In the same manner, the international community can implement human security through:
    - Encouraging the use of mediation and other forms of peaceful settlement of disputes.
    - Developing a case-by-case analysis for the creation of each peace mission, establishing the path for a coordinated action with the State, ensuring the implementation of a fact-based strategy on the ground and promoting the understanding of the cultural background of the affected communities.
    - Addressing the dangers causing the deaths of millions of civilian victims from secondary causes of armed conflict, notably lack of access to health care or food, among others.

III. Reconstruction and Human Security

42. Even though the process leading to lasting peace varies significantly from conflict to conflict, rehabilitation and reconstruction must be at its core. In order make it a success, special emphasis must be given to the multidimensional nature of the reconstruction and rehabilitation processes.

43. In general, the lack of attention of public policies to human dimensions lies at the very heart of the causes of most conflicts. Rebuilding state-institutions that make society functional, protect the freedom and the dignity of its citizens and empower people are essential for sustainable peace. Political peace depends on economic and social development, and vice versa.

44. Human security must be at the core of reconstruction processes through:
    - Early and comprehensive action in the fields of human development, human rights and democracy building.
    - During peace talks, political agreements must include and implement social agreements aimed at the safety of the individual, i.e. promoting human security.
    - State-Building must be based on three pillars: political processes (elections, governance and rule of law), safety and security, and safety and development through community based programs and national strategies.
    - While promoting domestic capacity-building, States must ensure multi-sectorial coordination and the safety of international and humanitarian personnel.
    - Ensuring the implementation of an effective Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program as an integral part of overall security sector reform.
    - Promoting the creation of local non-governmental organizations and reestablishing the local community.
    - Global civil society and international organizations must take human security as a central reference in the international cooperation field.

45. The International Community can guarantee a successful reconstruction process by implementing the following measures:
    - Promoting debt relief initiatives for affected developing countries.
    - Enhancing Official Development Assistance.
    - Giving priority to education programs.

46. The newly created Peace Building Commission of the United Nations represents a unique opportunity to give due consideration to the human security approach in post conflict situations within the multilateral system, as it is the first body that interlinks clearly the security and the development areas. The Peace Building Commission has a challenging task in putting Human Security at the center of future debates as an essential condition for sustainable peace.

IV. Migration and Human Security

47. Migration is a multidimensional phenomenon that has repercussions in both the areas of security and development. It is an increasing challenge related with globalization and the specific needs of populations that cannot be addressed individually by States.

48. Most people who leave their homes do so because they seek to improve their livelihoods, want to reunite with their family members, or because they are forced to leave as a result of the political or economic context in their homes. Thus, for many people, migration and internal displacement are a means in itself to attain human security, even if the security they seek might be at risk along their journey.

49. There are basically four kinds of movements of persons: 1) migrant workers: skilled migrants whose migration is institutionalized by the destination country (brain drain) and unskilled migrants, generally undocumented and more prone to situations of abuse; 2) refugees and asylum seekers that are compelled to leave their country due to persecutions or threats to their safety by States and non State actors; 3) internally displaced persons, composed of people who have left their homes for reasons that include conflict, natural disaster and food insecurity; 4) trafficked persons who are sometimes wrongly perceived as criminals.

50. Migration and development are inter-related. As long as there are imbalances between labor demand and supply, people seeking to improve their livelihoods will move for work, either internally or across States. However, it must be recognized that migration is a process that also empowers people and creates new opportunities for both people and States alike. Therefore, migrants can be a financial boost to their economies of origin and destination, alleviating poverty and supplementing the efforts of governments, through remittances and by fulfilling the labor market demand in the receiving States.

51. Despite this positive aspect, receiving countries tend to perceive migrant workers, especially undocumented migrants, as a threat to their security, particularly when they are faced with large numbers of migrants. As a result, governments close their borders or prevent people from reaching safety in their State. More recently, efforts to combat terrorism have tightened border security, making migrants more vulnerable to human rights violations.

52. The transnational impact of criminal organizations dedicated to human and drug trafficking or to terrorism, that take advantage of the vulnerability of migrant groups is a phenomenon that is directly affecting regions and the international community as a whole.

53. This situation is worsened at two different levels: on one hand, destination States many times design migration policies that are strictly focused on the security and the sovereignty of the State; on the other, origin and transit countries should look more closely into their responsibility with regards to the root causes that originate migration. These two levels, often a consequence of political circumstances, strengthen the organized crime structures and put at stake the human security of migrants, leaving them defenseless and prone to exploitation, racism, xenophobia and other types of discrimination.

54. In order to achieve State security and prosperity, it is necessary to adapt the existing mechanisms that address the human dimension of migration through shared responsibility, coordination between countries of origin, transit and destination and implementation of policies that integrate security, socio-economic planning and border management while protecting human rights and the dignity of persons.

55. Furthermore, in the multilateral context, it is important to promote the ratification and full implementation of the international instruments that address the issue, such as the International Convention on the Rights of all Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention).

56. It must be emphasized that regulated migration will help to the security and upholding of the stability of the State, by deterring illegal migration and combating organized crime. Migration must be analyzed through a global and comprehensive perspective, one that goes beyond borders.

57. The forthcoming High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development of the UN General Assembly offers a good opportunity for interested governments to introduce the human security dimension in the international migration debate.

V. Development and Human Security

58. While human security emerged in the context of human development, the interconnection and complementarities between both concepts and their agendas have increased. It is therefore of a great importance that an integrated approach be followed in dealing with these two concepts. In addition, high regard should be given to the notion of a people-centred approach as well as to education and lifelong learning.

59. Undeniably, the Global Human Security Fund, as proposed by the 1994 UNDP Human Development Report may serve as a crucial tool in advancing human security. However, this proposal has never been approved by the United Nations due to lack of funding and commitment. In the meantime, the United Nations Trust Fund

for Human Security (UNTFHS), established in 1999, has made significant funding for human security-related projects undertaken by UN organizations. It is vital to equip this Fund with the necessary resources and generous support so that it can be more effective.

60. In addition, it is important to ensure the implementation of national policies for development. In order to do this, there is a need for international cooperation and an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA).

61. Development should include the following factors:
- Investment in human capital.
- Domestic savings.
- National entrepreneurship.
- Appropriate macroeconomic policies.
- Political will at the top levels.
- Efficient bureaucracies.

62. In addition to the abovementioned factors, it is also important that developed countries provide assistance to developing countries in order to perform and achieve progress. In minimizing the costs of globalisation, developing countries should take full advantage of its opportunities and exert more efforts to benefit from technology transfer.

63. Given the inter-linkage of threats and the interconnection of people's insecurities, it is of utmost importance that policies and institutions respond in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

64. In this regard, human security is of a great value due to the following reasons:
- It has an integrated approach that complements State security, enhances human rights, and strengthens human development.
- It provides a framework for regional and multilateral cooperation that aims at improving the lives of people and communities worldwide.
- It gives equal importance to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- It is based on protection and empowerment.

65. In the same manner, emphasis should be placed on "downside risks" in order to ensure that the development agenda responds adequately to abject poverty, sudden economic crises and natural disasters. To mitigate these risks, all States need to invest in and prioritize activities that reduce them, for example through the integration of disaster risk reduction in development strategies, and through the promotion and pursuit of activities consistent with the Hyogo Framework adopted at the Kobe Conference in January 2005.

66. Human security suggests commitment towards "downturn with security" by adopting policies that advance human development, promote greater participation, reduce inequalities and more importantly ensure social safety nets. Moreover, it places individuals at the centre of analysis and action. It does not only try to understand the root causes of instabilities but also aims, as a social contract, at providing more security and prosperity as well as better enjoyment of human rights.

67. In the multilateral context, the UN agencies and programs, including UNHCR, OCHA and its Human Security Unit, have supported key thematic areas through the UNTFHS such as: rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and economic migrants; integration of humanitarian and development assistance; enhancement of health-care services; strengthening of economic and food security, and community development, disaster response and civic engagement.

68. Additionally, it is important to ensure that the ongoing discussions on the creation of the Human Rights Council focus on all human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural). Additionally, development should be mainstreamed within the UN system.

VI. Civil Society and human Security

69. The concept of human security is a response to the needs of civil society throughout the world, in the fields of freedom from fear and freedom from want.

70. Currently, the main concerns regarding security are the attempts on the life and the integrity of people, in a transition from a context marked by exclusion to one in which citizens fully exercise their citizenship rights and their productive capacities.

71. The role of civil society in making the concept of human security operative consists mainly in assuming the challenges of building human capacity trough education and the promotion of renewed perceptions, as well as in pursuing new strategies to safeguard the security of people in the following areas:

- Public security: Promoting more effective judicial systems and modifying the perception that public security and the promotion of human rights are conflicting aims. Human rights are fundamental for public security. Because of this, there is a need to reframe the discussion and demonstrate the necessity of establishing complementarities between human rights and public security.
- Defining the human rights dimension in the context of terrorism: Civil society contributes by documenting abuses and searching for ways to prevent impunity for acts of terrorism. International terrorism is an example of the non-traditional security threats that are being incorporated into the new concept of State security. In this regard, the information provided by civil society is not used exclusively to expose governments, but also to put pressure on other actors that influence terrorist groups, and to encourage governments to take effective steps to protect their citizens.
- Strengthening the efforts to integrate civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights into the non governmental organizations advocacy activities: The debate on human security provides the platform for civil society groups working on issues across the spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, to come together with governments and recapture the momentum of human rights, which may have been lost after 9/11.

72. While there have been a number of international agreements on both State and individual security in general, Sates do not have the capacity to fulfill their responsibilities, mainly because of a lack of resources or institutional weaknesses

that impede them from effectively controlling the diverse sectors involved in the field of security.

73. In this regard, the empowerment of civil society is crucial in order to address the different dimensions of human security, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, diseases, discrimination and environmental pollution.

VII. Final remarks

74. The Workshop on Human Security set the stage for an open-ended, inclusive and transparent discussion among Governments, international organizations, academics and civil society on the different elements that must be taken into account to define and implement Human Security.

75. Furthermore, the participation of representatives from several regions of the world enriched the debate and demonstrated that human security is a multidimensional concept that is in constant evolution.

76. There is a growing understanding that Human Security entails the protection of individuals from threats that have a direct impact on the security of the State and of the international community.

77. Human Security lies at the core of the prevention stage of massive humanitarian crises and interlinks the empowerment of people through the areas of development, human rights and democracy.

78. Several measures have been already implemented to ensure Human Security in the national and international arenas. However, the mandate given by the World Summit Outcome Document provides a unique opportunity for future discussions within the General Assembly to define and establish the notion and the scope of the concept. These discussions will ensure the development of adequate programs to face present challenges, effective implementation of international agreements and concrete actions, as well as a coherent and coordinated action by the international community.

United Nations A/60/740–S/2006/198

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
29 March 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 28 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 March 2006 addressed to you by Reşat Çağar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-29106 (E) 300306

Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 22 March 2006 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/60/729-S/2006/177), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" and the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia.

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating onto itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. Following the rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the United Nations settlement plan, the international community in general and the United Nations in particular is expecting positive moves from the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrating its political will and sincerity for a fair and just settlement in Cyprus. As a first step, the Greek Cypriot administration, without further delay, should heed your call and address with clarity and finality the question you have put to it.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/60/741–S/2006/199

General Assembly
Security Council

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29 March 2006

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 157
Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 27 March 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a request from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia ("International Tribunal") that directly relates to its ability to implement its Completion Strategy (see annex). The President has requested that Judge Joaquin Martin Canivell, a national of Spain, be able to continue to serve in the trial in Case No. IT-00-39, *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik*, to which he was appointed as an ad litem judge on 1 May 2003, and which is still ongoing before the International Tribunal, and to see the case through to its completion.

You will recall that Judge Canivell's term of office as a member of the pool of ad litem judges had come to an end on 11 June 2005 and that he was not re-elected as an ad litem judge. However, in response to the request contained in my letter of 6 January 2005 (A/59/666-S/2005/9), the Security Council, by its resolution 1581 (2005) of 18 January 2005, and the General Assembly, by its decision 59/406 B of 20 January 2005, decided, inter alia, that Judge Canivell, once replaced as an ad litem judge of the International Tribunal, should finish the *Krajišnik* case which he had begun before the expiry of his term of office. The Council, by that same resolution, as well as the Assembly, by its decision, took note of the International Tribunal's intention to finish the *Krajišnik* case before the end of April 2006, which would have kept Judge Canivell's service at the International Tribunal within the period of the three years for which ad litem judges are allowed to serve in trials during their term, pursuant to article 13 ter (2) of the statute of the International Tribunal.

The President of the International Tribunal has informed me that the *Krajišnik* case is expected to be completed only by August or September 2006. The reasons for this change are set forth in the President's letter.

06-29308 (E) 030406

Consequently, I would appreciate confirmation from both the Security Council and the General Assembly that Judge Canivell can continue to sit in the *Krajišnik* case beyond April 2006 and see the case through to its completion, notwithstanding the fact that the cumulative period of his service in the International Tribunal would then attain and exceed three years.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**

Annex

Letter dated 22 March 2006 from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Secretary-General

By the present letter, I wish to bring to your attention the situation of Judge Joaquín Martín Canivell (Spain), who had been elected as an ad litem Judge by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on 12 June 2001 and whose four-year term ended on 11 June 2005.

On 1 May 2003, Judge Canivell was appointed as an ad litem judge to *Prosecutor v. Krajišnik* (Case No. IT-00-39), an ongoing case in which Judge Canivell continues to sit.

In this respect, the Security Council, by resolution 1581 (2005) of 18 January 2005, had specifically authorized Judge Canivell to finish the *Krajišnik* case, notwithstanding the fact that his term as an ad litem judge was to come to an end on 11 June 2005. The Council, by that same resolution, took note of the International Tribunal's intention to finish the *Krajišnik* case before the end of April 2006, which would have kept Judge Canivell's service at the International Tribunal within the period of time for which ad litem judges are allowed to serve in trials during their term, pursuant to article 13 ter (2) of the statute of the International Tribunal, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

> During their term, ad litem judges will be appointed by the Secretary-General, upon request of the President of the International Tribunal, to serve in the Trial Chambers for one or more trials, for a cumulative period of up to, but not including, three years.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the *Krajišnik* case is now expected to be completed by August or September 2006, in spite of the fact that the Trial Chamber has made every effort to progress Mr. Krajišnik's trial in the most efficient manner, while respecting the requirements of a fair trial. The Defence for Mr. Krajišnik has faced severe problems organizing its case presentation, owing to Defence staff turnover and the challenge of responding to the Prosecution's long and complex case, among other factors. The Trial Chamber has, as a result, received numerous requests from the Defence for adjournment of the trial. While the Trial Chamber has never fully acceded to these requests, it has found it necessary to grant the Defence small additional amounts of time for case preparation. In the meantime, the Trial Chamber has kept up the pressure on the Defence through a series of written and oral orders.

In addition, it has recently been brought to the Trial Chamber's attention the fact that Mr. Krajišnik's health may be deteriorating as a result of the pressure he is currently under and other factors. This may necessitate further delays. While the Trial Chamber will continue to press for maximum efficiency, it will not be able to bring this trial to a close until it is satisfied that Mr. Krajišnik has had a fair opportunity to defend himself.

As indicated above, Judge Canivell's four-year term as an ad litem judge has come to an end. Furthermore, he is not part of the newly elected pool of ad litem judges. However, as Security Council resolution 1581 (2005), which provides the

legal basis for Judge Canivell's continuing to sit in the *Krajišnik* case, did take note of the International Tribunal's intention to finish the case before the end of April 2006, I would appreciate confirmation from the Council as well as from the General Assembly that he can continue to sit in this case beyond that date and see the case through to its completion, notwithstanding the fact that the cumulative period of his service would then attain and exceed three years.

I would therefore be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the Security Council as well as the General Assembly for their consideration. Thank you in advance for your action in this regard.

(*Signed*) Fausto **Pocar**
President

United Nations A/60/742–S/2006/205

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 March 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda items 14 and 108

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 30 March 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform you of a devastating terrorist attack that was perpetrated against Israel this evening.

At approximately 9.45 p.m., at least three people were murdered when a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a car at a gas station in the West Bank. According to initial reports, a Palestinian from Hebron had blown himself up next to a car packed with Israelis. The attacker had apparently been planning to carry out a suicide attack at a crowded destination; however, his explosives detonated prematurely at the gas station.

This deplorable terrorist attack comes at a very sensitive and fragile period in our relations with the Palestinian Authority. Only a few hours prior, in a statement during the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East at the Security Council, we had remarked: "As we sit here today, the next terrorist attack against Israel is being financed and planned and is nearing execution." It causes me great sorrow to note that this very attack occurred just minutes after the time of our deliberations.

We call on the international community to condemn this tragic attack, and employ its utmost efforts to bring about the participation of a genuine partner on the Palestinian side who will unequivocally reject terrorism, in all its forms, and comply with the very first requirement in the road map, namely to fight terrorism and begin to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Daniel **Carmon**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

06-29283 (E) 310306

United Nations A/60/743

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 April 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 21
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 31 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 3 January 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to you (A/60/647), transmitting in the annex thereto the text of a press release issued on 3 January 2006 by the Government of Argentina on the question of the Falkland Islands.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has no doubts about the sovereignty of the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and their surrounding maritime areas, and rejects the claim by the Government of Argentina to sovereignty over those islands and areas and that the Falkland Islands are under illegal occupation by the United Kingdom.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the present letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**

06-29560 (E) 040406

United Nations A/60/744

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 April 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 98 (d)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Letter dated 31 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing with reference to my letter dated 21 November 2005 addressed to the then Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Nobuyasu Abe, regarding the relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to Kathmandu, requesting the Secretariat to send a comprehensive draft of the host country agreement.

In that letter, I mentioned that His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been demonstrating flexibility and has shown its eagerness to sign the host country agreement by accommodating the concerns of the Secretariat on the issue of privileges and immunities and the additional costs, including security costs.

I regret to inform you that the Department for Disarmament Affairs has not provided this Mission with a comprehensive draft of the host country agreement as yet. Therefore, I would like to request your kind indulgence in the matter so that the host country agreement for the relocation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to Kathmandu could be signed at the earliest, as mandated by the General Assembly in various resolutions, the latest being resolution 60/85 of 8 December 2005.

I reiterate Nepal's desire to relocate the Centre to Kathmandu and make it operational within six months of the signing of the host country agreement.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 98 (d).

(*Signed*) Madhu Raman **Acharya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-29566 (E) 040406

United Nations A/60/745 S/2006/214

General Assembly
Security Council

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4 April 2006
English
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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 14
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a detailed statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty which occurred during March 2006, i.e., a total of 110 violations (see annex).

These violations are in contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 1655 (2006), and go against the Secretary-General's repeated calls for their cessation, most recently in his report S/2006/26 of 18 January 2006. Lebanon counts on the United Nations to compel Israel to desist from those violations, which constitute a threat to international peace and security, and holds Israel responsible for any consequences to which those acts may give rise.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziadeh**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-29680 (E) 050406 050406

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty during February 2006

Air violations				Sea violations	Land violations			
					Military acts of aggression	Field violations	Breaches	
Military jet	Reconnaissance	Helicopter	Total	Crossing of territorial waters, artillery fire and shooting of flares and firebombs over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of firebombs, dropping of artillery missiles, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory	
16	58	5	79	10	1	12	8	

United Nations A/60/746–S/2006/231

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 157
Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 10 April 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of resolution 1668 (2006), adopted unanimously by the Security Council at its 5407th meeting, held on 10 April 2006.

Resolution 1668 (2006) reads as follows:

"*The Security Council*,

"*Recalling* Security Council resolution 1581 (2005) of 18 January 2005,

"*Taking note* of the letter to the President of the Security Council from the Secretary-General dated 27 March 2006,

"*Decides*, in response to the request by the Secretary-General to confirm that Judge Joaquín Canivell can continue to sit in the Krajišnik case beyond April 2006 and see the case through to its completion, notwithstanding the fact that the cumulative period of his service in the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia would then attain and exceed three years,

"*Decides* to remain seized of the matter."

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
President of the Security Council

06-30521 (E) 110406

United Nations

A/60/747

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 April 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 125

Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katja **Pehrman** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 19th, 22nd and 46th meetings, on 2 and 9 November 2005 and on 11 April 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/60/SR.19, 22 and 46).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fifth session;[1]

(b) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on proposals on the strengthening and monitoring of programme performance and evaluation (A/60/73);

(c) Letter dated 20 October 2005 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/60/11).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 16* and corrigendum (A/60/16 and Corr.1).

06-30938 (E) 170406

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.32

4. At its 46th meeting, on 11 April 2006, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/60/L.32), which was submitted to the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the representative of Sweden.

5. Before consideration of the draft resolution, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the draft resolution by deleting the words "that it may" and inserting the word "to" in operative paragraph 3.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.32, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Cuba made a statement in explanation of position.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/216 of 21 December 1988, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/292 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003 and 59/275 of 23 December 2004,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fifth session[1] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on proposals on the strengthening and monitoring of programme performance and evaluation,[2]

Having received the letter from the President of the General Assembly transmitting the recommendations of the Second Committee concerning the evaluation of linkages between headquarters and field activities, a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in paragraphs 36 to 38, 110 to 120, 122 to 128, 165, 175 to 179, 196, 201 to 212, 227 to 237 and 249 of its report[1] and the recommendations of the Second Committee concerning the evaluation of linkages between headquarters and field activities, a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;[3]

3. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.16 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/59/16 and Corr.1).

[2] A/59/332.

[3] A/59/465.

Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;[4]

4. *Requests* the General Committee to take fully into account resolutions 56/253, 57/282 and 59/275 in the allocation of agenda items to the Main Committees;

Programme questions

5. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

6. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 3 of its resolution 60/246 of 23 December 2005, and reviews the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-seventh session, in the light of its recommendations in paragraphs 118 to 120 and 122 of its report, to provide further comments on the various aspects of the review process referred to in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Assembly resolution 58/269 to facilitate the decision of the Assembly at its sixty-second session;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure and without prejudice to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and 58/269 or to the future scheduling of the sessions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and taking into account paragraph 4 of its resolution 60/246, to reschedule the forty-sixth session of the Committee to no later than September 2006, in order to consider the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 and other items on the Committee's provisional agenda;

Evaluation

9. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[5] and encourages intergovernmental bodies to make use of the findings of the programme performance report of the Secretary-General and evaluation reports for planning and policymaking;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on the measures taken to promote the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation in the Organization, as per the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[5]

11. *Concurs* with the findings contained in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly in the context of the overall information technology strategy on measures and resources needed to strengthen the use of information technology as a management and monitoring tool;

12. *Notes with concern* that the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[5] was not submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

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[4] A/60/16 (Supp. No. 16).

United Nations A/60/748

General Assembly

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12 April 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 130

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Katja **Pehrman** (Finland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 26 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 1st, 2nd, 17th and 46th meetings on 10 and 11 October 2005 and 6 March and 11 April 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/60/SR.1, 2, 17 and 46).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 and programme of work for 2005[1];

(b) Note by the President of the General Assembly on procedures for the appointment of inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/60/639);

(c) Note by the Chairperson of the Joint Inspection Unit on the programme of work for 2006 (A/C.5/60/CRP.1).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/60/34).

06-30968 (E) 180406

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.31

4. At its 46th meeting, on 11 April 2006, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/60/L.31), which was introduced by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the representative of the Bahamas.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.31 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/276 of 27 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/283 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004 and 59/267 of 23 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 and programme of work for 2005[1] and the note by the Chairperson of the Joint Inspection Unit,[2]

Noting the ongoing external reform process of the Joint Inspection Unit aimed at further improving its effectiveness,

1. *Notes* the thematic reports in the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2005,[1] and in that regard reaffirms paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/233;

2. *Reaffirms* the unique role of the Unit as the only system-wide external oversight body;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Unit to improve the quality of the reports issued in 2004 and also the improvements made in the implementation of its reform process, as indicated in paragraphs 1 to 5 of its report;[1]

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the single consolidated format of the report of the Unit on its activities for 2004 and its programme of work for 2005;

5. *Notes* paragraphs 28 and 29 of the report of the Unit for 2004, and urges all host countries to facilitate prompt access for inspectors to all offices of participating organizations;

6. *Takes note* of the programme of work for 2006,[1] and requests the Unit to continue to submit an advance version of its programme of work to the General Assembly at its first resumed session;

7. *Requests* the Unit to continue to enhance dialogue with participating organizations and thereby to strengthen the follow-up of the implementation of its recommendations, in particular on managing for results;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/60/34 and A/C.5/60/CRP.1).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/60/34), chap. II.

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of effective coordination, in the implementation of their respective mandates, between the Unit, the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in order to maximize the use of resources and share experiences, knowledge, best practices and lessons learned;

9. *Requests* the Unit to include in future annual reports more information on the impact of full implementation of recommendations, including any cost savings, productivity and efficiency gains achieved.

B

Having considered the note by the President of the General Assembly on the procedures for the appointment of inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit,*

1. *Decides* to revert to the consideration of this subject at its sixty-first session.

* A/60/659